

CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

- 5 1. An implantable stimulation lead system, comprising:
 a lead including a lead body dimensioned for placement
 inside the coronary sinus region, the lead body having at least one
 electrode positioned at a distal end of the lead body, the distal end
10 of the lead body including a distal tip, the lead further having a
 lumen extending the length of the lead and communicating with an
 aperture in the distal tip; and
 a device dimensioned for insertion within the lumen, the
 device including:
 a main body;
15 a steering knob secured to a proximal extremity of the
 main body; and
 a flexible distal portion secured to a distal extremity of
 the main body, the main body having a length such that,
 with the main body of the device substantially completely
20 advanced within the lead, the flexible distal portion of the
 device projects distally from the aperture in the distal tip of
 the lead body.
- 25 2. The lead system defined in claim 1 in which:
 the main body and the flexible distal portion of said device
 comprise a unitary structure.
- 30 3. The lead system defined in claim 1 in which:
 the main body and flexible distal portion of said device
 comprise separate structures joined at the distal extremity of the
 main body.

4. The lead system defined in claim 1 in which:
the main body is formed of wire.
5. The lead system defined in claim 4 in which:
the flexible distal portion of the device comprises a wire coil.
6. The lead system defined in claim 5 in which:
the wire coil comprising the flexible distal portion of the
device has an outer diameter equal to that of the main body.
7. The lead system defined in claim 5 in which:
the wire coil comprising the flexible distal portion of the
device has an outer diameter smaller than that of the main body.
8. The lead system defined in claim 4 in which:
the flexible distal portion of said device comprises a
proximal section and a distal section, the distal section being more
flexible than the proximal section.
9. The lead system defined in claim 8 in which:
the proximal section and the distal section of the distal
portion of the device comprise wire coils.
10. The lead system defined in claim 9 in which:
the wire coil comprising the distal section has an outer
diameter smaller than that of the wire coil comprising the proximal
section.
11. The lead system defined in claim 10 in which:
the wire coil comprising the proximal section has an outer
diameter substantially the same as that of the main body.

12. The lead system defined in claim 10 in which:
the wire coil comprising the proximal section has an outer diameter smaller than that of the main body.
- 5 13. The lead system defined in claim 8 in which:
the proximal and distal sections comprise a unitary structure.
- 10 14. The lead system defined in claim 13 in which:
the proximal and distal sections are cylindrical, the proximal section having an outer diameter smaller than that of the main body and the distal section having an outer diameter smaller than that of the proximal section.
- 15 15. The lead system defined in claim 13 in which:
the proximal section is cylindrical and has a diameter smaller than that of the main body, and wherein the distal section comprises a thin leaf.
- 20 16. The lead system defined in claim 15 in which:
the thin leaf has a rectangular shape, the leaf having a width equal to the diameter of the proximal section.
- 25 17. The lead system defined in claim 16 in which:
the flexible distal portion of the device includes a wire coil surrounding the proximal and distal sections of the flexible distal portion.
- 30 18. The lead system defined in claim 17 in which:
the thin leaf includes a distal tip, the wire coil surrounding the proximal and distal sections of the flexible distal portion having an end attached to the distal tip of the thin leaf and another end attached to the distal extremity of the main body.